



Spring 2011

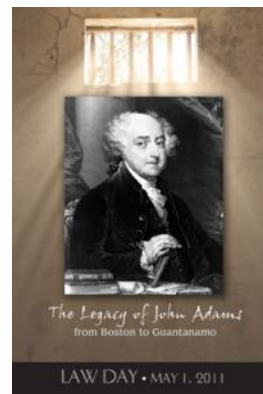
## CALENDAR

- May 3–4 MSC Oral Arguments\*
- May 11 MSC Public Hearing\*
- May 30 Memorial Day, State Holiday
- Jun 20–24 Exploring Careers, Grades 10–12
- Jul 18–22 Exploring Careers, Grades 7–9
- Sept 19 Constitution Day Event at the Learning Center

\*Proceedings of the Michigan Supreme Court are broadcast on Michigan Government Television (MGTV). The State Bar of Michigan also archives proceedings online at [www.michbar.org/courts/virtualcourt.cfm](http://www.michbar.org/courts/virtualcourt.cfm).

## Law Day, May 2

Join the national celebration of [Law Day](#), a program sponsored by the American Bar Association. This year's theme is "The Legacy of John Adams from Boston to Guantanamo." At the Learning Center, group tours and activities on May 2 will focus on the responsibility of courts to ensure adherence to the rule of law regarding the rights of the accused. (See "In Brief" on the next page for more about these rights.)



## Exploring Careers in the Law 2011

### Openings Available for Grades 7–9, July 18–22

Each summer, students interested in finding out more about legal careers visit the Learning Center for week-long day programs. Openings are available for students entering 7th–9th grades. Applications can be downloaded from the Learning Center [web site](#).

Students explore a range of law-related careers. They meet with judges, lawyers, and other legal professionals, and observe real court proceedings.  
*July 18–22*

## Exploring Careers in the Law

*This past week has been the highlight of my summer. With new people to meet and new knowledge galore, the program was fun and educational. Thank you for this program.*

— 8th Grade Student  
2010 Participant



## New Exhibit – Crime Victim's Rights

On April 13, the Learning Center dedicated a new exhibit about the William Van Regenmorter Crime Victim's Rights Act. Through simple graphics and hands-on activities, the exhibit examines the steps of a criminal case, the rights of the victim and the accused, the victim impact statement given to the court, and the role of victim advocates who assist victims through the court process.



You received this newsletter because you are subscribed to *Justitia*, the Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center newsletter for educators. If you no longer wish to receive these newsletters, please email [LearningCenter-eNews@courts.mi.gov](mailto:LearningCenter-eNews@courts.mi.gov) to unsubscribe.

## Michigan Supreme Court

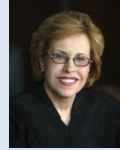
In January 2011, the Michigan Supreme Court changed to reflect the election of Justice Mary Beth Kelly and the appointment of Justice Brian K. Zahra to fill a vacancy. Chief Justice Robert P. Young, Jr., was also selected by his colleagues to lead the Court.



Chief Justice  
Robert P.  
Young, Jr.



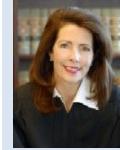
Justice  
Michael F.  
Cavanagh



Justice  
Marilyn  
Kelly



Justice  
Stephen J.  
Markman



Justice  
Diane M.  
Hathaway



Justice  
Mary Beth  
Kelly



Justice  
Brian K.  
Zahra

## In Brief: Rights of the Accused

The founders of our country knew what it was like to live without the rule of law; many early Americans were jailed, lost their property, or were even executed without a trial. As subjects of the British king, they only had the rights that the king wanted them to have. The founders realized that freedom would only be protected against dictators and tyrants if our country had a strong legal system and a rule of law that applied to everyone, including the government.

The [U.S. Constitution](#), including the Bill of Rights, offers strong protections for those accused of crimes. Amendments IV, V, VI, and VIII define the rights of the accused, including protections against unreasonable searches, freedom from double jeopardy, the right against self-incrimination, the right to a public and speedy trial by jury, and a prohibition on excessive bail and the infliction of cruel and unusual punishments. Originally, the guarantee of these rights applied only to the federal government, but they have been interpreted by the U.S. Supreme Court to apply to the states under the provision of Amendment XIV that no state shall “deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law.”

The Michigan Constitution of 1963 also protects the rights of the accused under several sections of Article I, Declaration of Rights (see [Const 1963](#), art 6, §2, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, and 20). Criminal cases in state courts must adhere to the provisions outlined in the state and federal constitutions.

### The Symbol of Justice

Lady Justice and her scales symbolize courts and justice to people the world over.

Yale law professors Judith Resnik and Dennis Curtis have recently published [Representing Justice: Invention, Controversy, and Rights in City-States and Democratic Courtrooms](#) (2011), tracing Lady Justice’s long history, illustrated through art. A selection of images are available through the link above.

More information is also found in a lengthy book review in the [New York Times](#).

## Best of the Web RIGHTS OF THE ACCUSED



### Upper Elementary and Middle School – *Explaining the Bill of Rights*, Scholastic, Inc.

[www2.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=4699](http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=4699)

Background reading about the Bill of Rights.

### High School – *Right to Counsel*, National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

[www.nacdl.org/public.nsf/GideonAnniversary/lesson](http://www.nacdl.org/public.nsf/GideonAnniversary/lesson)

Lesson plans about *Gideon v Wainwright*, which mandates that anyone accused of a felony has a right to counsel, regardless of the ability to hire a lawyer

### For Reference – *Rights of the Accused*, U.S. Department of State

[www.america.gov/st/democracyhr-english/2008/June/20080630231256eafas0.3084683.html](http://www.america.gov/st/democracyhr-english/2008/June/20080630231256eafas0.3084683.html)

Detailed text explaining the rights of the accused; includes a list of further readings.